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SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 29 April 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. JOHNSON (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 1982 SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP (E/1981/WG.1/CRP.1) AND BUREAU OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR 1982 (E/1981/WG.1/CRP.2)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Working Group wished to adopt by consensus the proposals of the Bureau on the draft provisional agenda for the Sessional Working Group in 1982 contained in document E/1981/WG.1/CRP.1 and on the Bureau of the Sessional Working Group for 1982 contained in document E/1981/WG.1/CRP.2.

2. It was so decided.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP (E/1981/WG.1/L.2 and Add.1)

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Working Group to consider its draft report chapter by chapter.

Chapter I

4. Mr. PAL (India), Rapporteur, said that the draft report of the Sessional Working Group had basically the same format as previous reports. Section E of chapter I (E/1981/WG.1/L.2) was included in the text in pursuance of the decision of the Council urging all bodies to rationalize their work in that manner.

5. Mr. CHERNICHENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the reference to the Federal Republic of Germany in paragraph 4 of the Russian text was incorrect and should be changed.

6. Chapter I (paras. 1-10) was adopted.

Chapter II

7. Mr. CHERNICHENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the understanding referred to in paragraph 13 was an ad hoc understanding which pertained only to the session in progress at the time it was reached. That should be reflected in the text somehow.

8. Mr. PAL (India), Rapporteur, said that the understanding was based on a decision taken formally within the Working Group and therefore was not an ad hoc understanding.

9. The CHAIRMAN appealed to the members of the Working Group not to reopen the debate on matters on which agreement had been reached.

10. Paragraphs 11-16 were adopted.

11. Mr. PAL (India), Rapporteur, suggested that the reference to Panama in paragraph 17 should be deleted and incorporated in paragraph 18 since that country had been unable to present its report at the current session.

12. It was so agreed.

13. Mr. BORCHARD (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the reference to his country in paragraph 17 was incorrect and should be "Germany, Federal Republic of".

14. Paragraphs 17 and 18, as amended, were adopted.

15. Mr. PAL (India), Rapporteur, said that both paragraph 19 and the Annex mentioned documents which were referred to in the discussion. In order to avoid duplication, he suggested that either paragraph 19 should be retained and the Annex should list the symbols of those documents with a reference to paragraph 19 or that paragraph 19 should be deleted and the Annex should be retained as it stood.

16. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the first suggestion was the better of the two.

17. That suggestion was adopted.

18. Paragraph 19 was adopted.

19. Chapter II was adopted.

20. The Annex, as amended, was adopted.

Addendum 1

21. Mr. PAL (India), Rapporteur, drew attention to several editorial changes made in Addendum 1. In the English text the references made to the various recommendations were in the past tense in accordance with editorial style. The reference to the name of the Working Group was incorporated in the last sentence of the fourth paragraph of section 1 in order to make the text more homogeneous. He suggested that in the English text of section 7 the words "to be" should be inserted after the word "were". Lastly, he suggested that in section 11 the phrase "the Working Group should recommend to the Council the suspension of" should be deleted in order to avoid unnecessary repetition and the sentence rewritten as follows: "The preparation of the analytical summaries as authorized in Council decision 1978/9 should be suspended."

22. It was so agreed.

23. Addendum 1 to the draft report, as amended, was adopted.

24. The draft report as a whole, as amended, was adopted without a vote.

OTHER MATTERS

25. Mr. BORCHARD (Federal Republic of Germany) suggested that in future the Working Group should hold its meetings in a larger room in order comfortably to accommodate the members of the Working Group as well as all interested parties.

26. Mr. AGBASI (Secretary of the Working Group) said that Conference Services assigned rooms according to the estimated number of persons attending the meetings. Twenty names had been submitted for the current session. If the members of the Working Group submitted the names of those they would like to invite, it would be possible to obtain a room which would accommodate everybody.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

27. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the 1981 session of the Sessional Working Group closed.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.